

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-20, 22-24 and 26-33 are currently pending. Claims 28-33 have been added, and claims 14, 21 and 25 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Hoover and DeLorme '040. As claims 14, 21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection with respect to these claims is moot. The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to all other claims.

Claims 1, 15, and 20 have been amended to recite, inter alia, mobile user terminals that, in addition to an input unit/input means (such as the user interface 22 in FIG. 2) for inputting information from a user, comprise a situation detector/situation detecting means (such as the situation detecting block 31 shown in FIG. 2) for detecting information on the situation of the user, including, for example, environmental data that varies with movement of the user, such as ambient temperature and other weather conditions. As a result of this arrangement, the center 10 automatically receives user environment data from a mobile user terminal (such as the mobile user terminal 20 in FIG. 2), and can therefore provide more detailed information to the mobile terminals even if the data input through the user interface is very limited.

Hoover is inapplicable to the present claims at least for reasons discussed previously in the Amendment filed on January 20, 2004 and for reasons noted by the Examiner in the present Final Rejection. Specifically, the Examiner notes that Hoover does not teach mobile user terminals or data regarding an environment of a user that varies with movement of the user.

The Examiner cites DeLorme '040 in an effort to cure the deficiencies of Hoover. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that DeLorme '040 teaches a mobile user terminal in the Abstract, in FIG. 9B (906, 907) and at col. 7, lines 30-35 (PDA). While, DeLorme describes a

mobile user terminal 907 that can be used to input user data and to send the data to a center, which in turn provides a travel plan to the user, it fails to teach or suggest that the mobile user terminal 907 includes a situation detector/detecting means for detecting a user environment that varies with the movement of a terminal 907. The Examiner asserts that DeLorme refers to scenery information in col. 35, lines 16-45. However, this information is not what the mobile user terminals of the present invention detect as a user environmental condition, because the scenery information is merely general information on, for example, scuba diving and coral reefs, which is not information that is previously input by the user or that is detected by a situation detector, but rather is merely general information on a subject that is retrieved from a database stored at least in part on a CD-ROM. (See col. 13, line 48 – col. 14, line 18). Subsequent queries by the user may be influenced by sub-structural information (TEMPORAL DATA) previously recorded for a current user session or episode, such as a trip that is currently being planned.

Put another way, the travel reservation and planning system in DeLorme is merely a relational database of goods and services information that a user can access and preview based on a preferred location of topical interest. (See col. 70, lines 10-32). DeLorme fails to teach detecting and sending, together with user input data, user environmental condition data as recited in independent claims 1, 15, 20, 24, 26 and 27, or, more specifically, data regarding scenery around the vehicle (claims 12 and 13), data on temperature outside the vehicle (claim 22), weather or traffic status data (claim 23) or vehicle compartment air conditioning data (claim 27). Where does the Examiner assert that DeLorme discloses a situation detector for detecting a user environment that varies with the movement of a terminal? Clarification is requested.

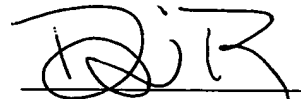
The combination of Hoover and DeLorme fails to render the present invention obvious as recited in the rejected claims, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner should note that claims 28-33 have been added to further distinguish the present invention from the art of record. Specifically, these claims, which respectively depend from independent claims 1, 15, 20, 24, 26 and 27, recite storage and transmission means that automatically transmits terminal-side information to the center when a retrieval request is made. Support for the storage and transmission means may be found, for example, at S450 and S510-540 in FIGs. 4 and 5. None of the art of record, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests such a feature.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request a prompt Notice to that effect.

A two-month extension of time and the requisite fee are included with this Amendment. Please charge any fees that may be due, or credit any refunds, to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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